

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed in this Response address the issues on pages 2-4 of the office action. Newly added claims 14-20 are similar in scope to cancelled claims 1-13. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance are requested.

Each of claims 14-20 are patentable over each of Dassen and German Patent 311,416 (German) and over the combination of Dassen and Vijgen or Crook references.

Dassen (5,533,865) is being relied on under the assumption that it is intended for improving the efficiency of a wind turbine. That is an incorrect reading of Dassen. Dassen states, in column 1, lines 16-17, lines 23-25 and lines 61-64, that the wind turbine is intended to reduce noise. Contrary to that, the present invention provides a device which has optimal performance efficiency. It is displayed in the so-called power curve of the wind turbine, i.e. the electrical power output from the wind turbine as a function of the wind speed. Dassen does not disclose any means for improving this parameter.

On page 5, lines 2-3 of the office action, the Examiner indicates that serrations are provided as a retrofit. However, nothing in the reference provides a basis for that assumption. Dassen relates to a different device and different fixing of the serrations. Dassen does not teach nor inherently provide for serrations for improving the efficiency of the wind turbine.

On page 5, the last three lines, the Examiner states that a

person of ordinary skill would readily recognize that the serrated trailing edges improve that life and drag. This is clearly an allegation which is not supported in any of the explanations given by the Examiner or in any explanation given in the Dassen patent. In the Dassen patent there is no hint or any direction to literature which supports that the skilled man should realize that a trailing edge improves lift and drag.

On the contrary, it should be noted that serrated edges have been disclosed by Dassen only with the purpose of reducing noise, and there is no indication that other parameters for the wind mill should be effected. Accordingly, Dassen does not describe, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In German 311,416 there is nothing related to a possible improvement of the efficiency by making use of a serrated trailing edge as uniquely defined in the present application

The German patent may mention that the trailing edge b may be provided with small elastic plates cf. column 2, lines 50-65. However, those plates are incorporated in order to make use of turbulent movements in the air. Those movements could be used by having elastically bendable plates (cf. column 2, line 68 - column 3, line 22). At the bottom of page 6, the Examiner repeats the allegation that a person of ordinary skill would recognize that the serrated trailing edges disclosed by the German patent would improve the life and drag, even though the reference itself does not describe, teach nor suggest the claimed invention.

The Examiner alleges that there is no explicit explanation that a serrated trailing edge should improve the efficiency of the wind turbine. However, seeing that none of the documents contain any explanation relating to efficiency in the meaning of electrical power output as a function of the wind speed, it is apparent that none of the documents are relevant when evaluating the patentability of the present invention.

The combination of Dassen and Vijgen (5,533,865 and 5,088,665) and the combination of Dassen in view of Crook (US 5,533,865 and US 1,724,456) does not teach nor suggest the claimed invention.

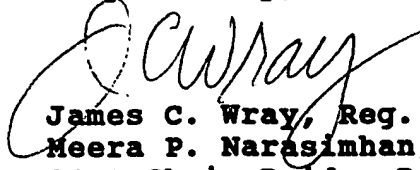
Since Dassen is not a relevant citation and does not relate to improving efficiency, then the combination with Vijgen would not either be relevant as Vijgen too does not mention the possibility of improving efficiency in the meaning of the electrical power output from the wind mill turbine at a given wind speed. Similarly, the combination of Dassen and Crook are not relevant because Dassen is not relevant and Crook only relates to aerodynamic control and has no indication of improved efficiency.

Nothing in the references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features. Therefore, the references cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully

requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Wray", is written over the typed name and address.

James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
1493 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22101
Tel: (703) 442-4800
Fax: (703) 448-7397

April 23, 2003